

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11391

NOFORN

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY: SEPTEMBER 6-7 POLITICAL
DIRECTORS MEETING: GERMAN PAN-EUROPE ENERGY
PROPOSAL

REF: STOCKER-WEINGARTEN TELCON SEPTEMBER 7

1. BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY ADVISES US THAT GERMAN PAN-
EUROPE ENERGY PROPOSAL PRESENTED ONLY BRIEFLY BY FRG
POLITICAL DIRECTOR IN SEPTEMBER 6-7 EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS
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MEETING. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR DISCUSSION. SUBJECT TO BE
REMANDED TO COREPER FOR FURTHER STUDY AND FOR WHAT WILL
PROBABLY BE CURSORY REVIEW BY EC CSCE EXPERTS
SEPTEMBER 14-15.

2. BELGIANS REPORT THAT GERMAN REP TERMED FRG ATTITUDE
TOWARD SOVIET EAST-WEST ENERGY PROPOSAL AS "RATHER

SYMPATHETIC". GERMAN REP EXPLAINED THAT RUSSIANS HAVE ASKED FOR NOTHING ELSE; SUCH A BASKET TWO CONCESSION WOULD BE SOMETHING WITH WHICH THE WEST COULD BARGAIN (FOR BASKET ONE AND THREE CONCESSIONS THE WEST IS ASKING OF THE USSR). GERMANS BELIEVE THAT WEST HAS NOTHING TO LOSE IN AN EAST-WEST ENERGY DIALOGUE. IT MIGHT EVEN PROVE

USEFUL, FRG REP IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, AND COULD EXERT A STABILIZING INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD ENERGY SITUATION THROUGH THE NEXT DECADE. THE BELGIANS UNDERSTAND THE DIALOGUE ENVISAGED TO BE A MODEST BUT PERMANENT EXERCISE.

3. BELGIANS ALSO TELL US THAT THE GERMAN PLAN WAS DISCUSSED AT SOMEWHAT GREATER LENGTH IN AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1 EC CSCE EXPERTS MEETING. GERMANS AT THAT TIME SUGGESTED THAT WEST COULD EITHER INTRODUCE PROPOSAL UNILATERALLY AT BELGRADE (THIS WAS OPPOSED BY ALL OTHER EIGHT MEMBER STATES) OR COULD RETAIN IT AS IDEA TO SURFACE WHEN AND IF NEEDED IN THE NEGOTIATION. AT THIS MEETING, THE OTHER EIGHT MEMBER STATES SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF THE IDEA. OBJECTIONS REPORTED INCLUDE (A) AN ENERGY DIALOGUE WITHOUT MAJOR OIL PRODUCERS MIGHT BE USELESS; (B) MOVE COULD BE PREMATURE IN VIEW OF LACK OF OBSERVABLE BENEFITS TO WEST SO FAR FROM ITS LAST CONCESSION TO THE USSR (ON ENVIRONMENT); (C) THE TIE BETWEEN THE BREZNEV PROPOSAL AND THE FINAL HELSINKI DECLARATION IS, IN ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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EVENT, VERY WEAK. COMMISSION ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE POSED TO GERMANS A NUMBER OF TOUGH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AT THIS MEETING, INCLUDING WHY ENERGY BEING SELECTED RATHER THAN SOME OTHER EQUALLY APPROPRIATE AREA (E.G., TRANSPORT).

4. BELGIAN PRESIDENCY ESTIMATES THE MOOD OF OTHER EIGHT MEMBER STATES ON THE GERMAN PROPOSAL AS STILL SKEPTICAL, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY A LITTLE LESS NEGATIVE THAN AT THE BEGINNING. CURRENT CONSENSUS APPEARS TO BE THAT MEMBER STATES WILL CONSENT TO FURTHER STUDY OF THE PROPOSAL TO KEEP IT IN RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES AT THE CSCE. AS MATTERS STAND NOW, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENCY BELIEVES THAT THE NINE WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER OFFERING THIS CONCESSION TO THE USSR BEFORE SEEING FIRST WHAT THE LATTER MIGHT BE WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.

5. BELGIANS HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT GERMANS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS PROPOSAL WITH THE USG. IN ANY CASE, THE PRESIDENCY REQUESTS THAT ITS COMMENTS TO US ON THIS SUBJECT BE PROTECTED, SINCE IT BELIEVES THAT THE FRG IS CURRENTLY SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE ABOUT BEING OUT IN FRONT WITHIN THE EC ON THIS ISSUE. CHAMBERS

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